




Key contacts for further information

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Key features and USP

We offer a mature, scalable primary care research environment with a strong track record in commercial delivery. Anchored by experienced flagship GP practices, the Centre consistently delivers studies to time and target while maintaining high quality across multiple sites.

A key differentiator is rapid and predictable study set-up. Feasibility assessments are completed within days, with parallel processing of set-up activities supported by standardised agreements and centralised governance. This reduces set-up friction, mitigates delivery risk and enables dependable performance against timelines and recruitment targets.

The network provides access to large, well characterised primary care populations across

urban, rural and underserved communities. Unified electronic medical records across practices, combined with advanced patient identification and stratification tools, enable rapid, precise cohort selection. This results in low screen failure rates, strong recruitment performance and consistently high retention, with no dropouts to date across studies.

Scale is delivered through a coordinated multi-location delivery model, extending from a core population of 89,000 to a reach of up to 1.4 million patients. This enables predictable recruitment at pace while maintaining consistency in delivery across sites.

All sites are equipped for commercial research, with dedicated facilities and secure investigational product handling embedded within routine general practice. Longitudinal patient records and established clinician patient relationships support high quality follow-up and reduce participant burden. Mobile and community based delivery models further widen access, including to rural and underserved populations.

The Centre brings senior clinical and operational leadership with direct industry engagement. This includes delivery of first global and European patients in large Phase 3 programmes, national leadership and Chief Investigator roles, and participation in global expert panels and protocol design. Over 55 commercial studies have been delivered in the past five years, with 14 active trials currently running.

The Centre also offers expertise in recruitment strategy and patient engagement, including multilingual digital content, alongside access to community pharmacy, secondary care and Clinical Research Facilities. Where more complex investigations are required, these are supported through established partnerships with local CRFs, secondary care and independent providers.

Socio-demographic spread

The NIHR Greater Cambridge and Suffolk CRDC (Primary Care) serves a broad and diverse population across urban, rural and semi-rural communities. The footprint includes areas of affluence alongside populations affected by deprivation, digital exclusion, rural isolation and limited transport access. It also reflects significant cultural and ethnic diversity, with a wide range of languages spoken across the network, enabling engagement with communities often under-represented in research and supporting more equitable access to studies.

The network enables commercially relevant recruitment across a wide range of ages and long-term conditions, including but not limited to cardiometabolic disease, cardiovascular outcomes, respiratory disease, obesity and related morbidity, dermatology, renal disease, liver disease, women's health and vaccines. Primary care longitudinal records allow precise identification of eligible participants and targeted outreach, resulting in efficient recruitment, low screen failure rates and maximum study retention.

This demographic spread enables recruitment that better reflects the intended treatment population, supporting generalisability of trial outcomes.

Delivery is embedded within routine general practice and extended through community pharmacy and mobile models by our specialist team. This reduces participant burden and

enables access to patients who may not engage with hospital-based research, while maintaining delivery to time and target.

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CRDC impact and delivery model

CRDC funding has enabled a step change in primary care research delivery across Greater Cambridge and Suffolk, bringing together a coordinated, industry-ready network of research-active GP practices embedded within NHS care.

A multi-location delivery model, anchored by experienced flagship practices and supported by an expanding network of delivery and participant identification sites, has increased capacity and reduced variability in performance. Standardised governance and operational processes aligned to NIHR benchmarks support consistent delivery across sites.

Investment in dedicated leadership, study coordination, nursing and governance infrastructure has strengthened feasibility, reduced set-up timelines and improved delivery reliability for commercial studies across a broad therapeutic portfolio.

The model is already scaling beyond core CRDC sites. New spoke sites are being brought online rapidly, with early delivery of commercial studies within months of integration. This demonstrates the ability to extend capacity beyond established centres while maintaining consistent standards of delivery, governance and performance.

Further expansion is underway, with additional sites in development and strengthening links with secondary care and Clinical Research Facilities. This enables continued growth in capacity while maintaining predictable, high-quality delivery.

“The UK Joining late meant we had to move fast and close the gap quickly. With CRDC support, Meresides Research team not only met that challenge but delivered global PPFV on our study and European First on the sister study in the same day at 96 days.

It shows what a coordinated primary care research model can do when set up properly. This level of delivery doesn’t happen by chance. It’s the result of true dedication, teamwork, long hours and a huge amount of behind the scenes effort from set-up right through to screening.”
Senior Clinical Operations Lead, Global Pharmaceutical Company

“Taking part in research at my Staploe has been enjoyable. The team know me, explain everything clearly, and looked after the whole of me. Nothing is too much trouble. My overall health has improved so much. It felt caring, flexible, organised and interesting. I would be very happy to recommend and take part again.”

Research Participant GLP-1RA Global study